

ABSTRACT

5     The present invention relates to a novel class of  
sulfonamides which are aspartyl protease inhibitors. In  
one embodiment, this invention relates to a novel class  
of HIV aspartyl protease inhibitors characterized by  
specific structural and physicochemical features. This  
invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions  
10    comprising these compounds. The compounds and  
pharmaceutical compositions of this invention are  
particularly well suited for inhibiting HIV-1 and HIV-2  
protease activity and consequently, may be advantageously  
used as anti-viral agents against the HIV-1 and HIV-2  
15    viruses. This invention also relates to methods for  
inhibiting the activity of HIV aspartyl protease using  
the compounds of this invention and methods for screening  
compounds for anti-HIV activity.